

Will the broadcast flag interfere with consumers ability to make copies of DTV content for their personal use, either on personal video recorders or removable media?

I am using a ReplayTV for time shifting and selecting the portions of the show that I want. I hope that this is not removed by the Broadcast flag.

I have not, but in the future, would like to be able to make archival copies for later playback to to show a friend a show that I liked.

Note: I support the user of a Broadcast flag in preventing consumer hardware from making multiple copies and publishing high quality material, if this is part of the contract that the Broadcast flag promoters are willing to sign that this is the ONLY use for such a flag in consumer hardware.

Would the digital flag interfere with consumers ability to send DTV content across networks, such as home digital networks connecting digital set top boxes, digital recorders, digital servers and digital display devices?

I have no objection if the Broadcast flag prevents broadcast to off home, Wide area, network hardware, but see that I want to view TV from my Digital Recorder on another TV in another room, and perhaps connected via 802.11x

Any Broadcast flag proposal should contain a statement that the Broadcast flag will be restricted to controlling ONLY internet rebroadcast of high quality digital media and that the FCC revoke any licenses for broadcast flag use if it is ever used to further restrict access.

Would the broadcast flag requirement limit consumers ability to use their existing electronic equipment (equipment not built to look for the flag) or make it difficult to use older components with new equipment that is compliant with the broadcast flag standard?

This must be required as part of the FCC approval that existing hardware will function, within specifications, even after the transition to DTV. At this time I am holding off upgrading my hardware as I am uncertain whether the hardware that I purchase today will work properly after 2006 or so. TV's tend to last ten's of years and so I do not plan to purchase any hardware that may be obsoleted in 4 years by the transition to DTV.

Would a broadcast flag requirement limit the development of future equipment providing consumers with new options?

My position is that dedicated consumer hardware that is designed for making multiple copies or re-broadcasting to the wide area network, of high quality Copyright entertainment material can be limited by the broadcast flag.

But more general purpose or, low production hardware, e.g. PC's, and more limited hardware, e.g. standard TV's and similarly low resolution recorders, etc. should not be restricted as they will not be serious Copyright violator enablers.

What will be the cost impact, if any, that a broadcast flag requirement would have on consumer electronics equipment?

I will not purchase hardware that is severely limited and will not purchase it if it is to be obsoleted soon. If all TV's cost more, est \$250, because

of this requirement, even though only 10% may need it as they get their content over Cable or Satellite, then I will keep the old hardware rather than upgrading.

Other Comments:

I understand the desire of the FCC to assist in the development of High Quality material, but disagree with the approach. I believe that:

1) TV's after 2006 should be required to have a slot that can be filled with a Digital TV Module, or a high resolution feed from a Cable, Satellite, or PC. Then the users who need DTV reception should be able to purchase their tuner from Zenith at the \$50.00 that was promised rather than requiring all the TV's to receive DTV even though they use Cable or Satellite.

2) Dedicated consumer hardware that is designed to make mass high quality copies, or broadcast it to non local networks should honor the Broadcast flag, and not copy or re-broadcast the material if so designated by the Copyright holder.

3) Consumer products that only make single copies, permit time and or format shift, transmit to local networks or make standard TV resolution copies need only to "duplicate" the flag, but not to honor any restrictions.

4) Other hardware that has more general purposes, e.g. PC's should not be restricted as they will be a low volume part of the market.

If the Copyright owners use the Broadcast flag to restrict access more than for wide area broadcasting or for mass copying, then the FCC should revoke the permission of the Broadcasters to transmit the flag.